

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and thank a constituent of mine from Patriot, Ohio—Ms. Gail DeGarmo.

Ms. DeGarmo is an employee of Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative, and she recently traveled to Honduras as a volunteer for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation.

While on the island of Roatan, she taught local co-op employees how to install, set up, operate, and maintain their newly-acquired automated metering information system. This will enable them to operate and use the Command Center software, which serves about 13,000 customers.

Ms. DeGarmo's volunteer efforts supported the Smart Grid Alliance for the Americas' goal to provide technical assistance in smart grid technology applications to cooperative, municipal, and other small electric distribution utilities in Latin America.

Ms. DeGarmo's effort will help the alliance's project to improve energy efficiency, integrate renewable generation, and, most importantly, improve access to electricity for underserved communities in Latin America.

Thank you, Ms. DeGarmo, for your hard work.

TOURETTE'S SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the recently completed Tourette's Syndrome Awareness Month, a time when we educate ourselves and our children about Tourette's syndrome.

At a ceremony earlier this year, I had the privilege of meeting and listening to many of the courageous young people—heroes—telling their own Tourette's syndrome story.

Tourette's is a neurological condition that affects millions of Americans every day, mostly young children. For these kids, the involuntary tics can mean strange looks from classmates, bullying, or total alienation.

The simple fact is that most kids and even most parents don't understand TS or its symptoms. That is what makes awareness and education so important.

It is also a time to celebrate the bravery and perseverance of the local heroes nationwide—the heroes telling their own TS stories. The heroes I met ranged from energetic kindergartners to high school students to young college kids sharing an increasing awareness of TS.

The glowing comments from their teachers, friends, and family described how these young people took the obstacles they faced head-on and make a difference in the lives of their community.

It is an honor to stand and recognize Tourette's Syndrome Awareness Month.

MEDIA IGNORES IRS SCANDAL

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the liberal national media continues to downplay the IRS scandal.

Last week, the IRS claimed it lost 2 years of emails of former director Lois Lerner, which likely contained information about the agency's targeting of conservative organizations.

One would think that this would be breaking news, but it took The Washington Post and The New York Times 4 days before they considered the missing emails newsworthy. This may be one reason why consumers are turning to social media for their news.

What a dramatic shift from how these publications covered President Nixon's missing 18 minutes of audio tape. During Watergate, The Post and The Times' front pages and editorials almost daily criticized the Nixon administration's abuse of power.

The liberal national media hasn't changed between Watergate and now. What has changed is the political party of the administration in power.

REBUILDING DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

(Mr. BARROW of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of our work to rebuild the Department of Veterans Affairs. Last week, the VA released the first-ever nationwide comprehensive audit of the VA health care system, and the findings were eye opening, though not surprising. More than 100,000 veterans have either waited more than 90 days to get an appointment, or they never received an appointment at all.

This week, Congressman BILL CASSIDY and I introduced a bipartisan resolution calling on the Attorney General to appoint a special counsel to investigate the evidence disclosed in the course of the internal audit.

If, as the report states, managers at the VA told their subordinates to doctor the books to make wait times appear shorter, then any employees who falsified these Federal records should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The House has already voted to hold the guilty parties responsible and to give VA patients the right to go outside the VA to get the care they need, when they can't get it inside the VA, but these are just the first few steps in a long march to get them the care they have earned.

I urge my colleagues to support our resolution because we owe it to all those who gave us the best years of their lives.

CONGRATULATING ST. CLOUD CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Cloud Cathedral High School in Minnesota for winning the State class 2A baseball championship earlier this week. This really was a remarkable victory.

After making a dramatic comeback, the Crusaders beat Fairmont 5-4. This victory marks the eighth championship for the team since 1977. With 44 seasons and 711 wins under his belt, Cathedral coach and alumnus Bob Karn has won more high school baseball games than any coach in Minnesota State history. Congratulations, Coach Karn. That is quite a record.

Congratulations, Cathedral High School; and congratulations to all of the assistants, administrators, family members, and friends who made such a tremendous accomplishment possible.

This is what America is really about, and we are with you in spirit today.

CONDEMNING KIDNAPPINGS OF ISRAELI BOYS

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it has been nearly a week, and there is still no trace of the three Israeli boys who were kidnapped presumably by Hamas, the terrorist organization.

Our hearts go out to their families, and we hope that they will be found. One of them is an American citizen, Naftali Frenkel. The others, Eyal Yifrach and Gilad Shaar, the whole world is praying for their safe return.

Madam Speaker, this shows the brutality of the terrorists, the brutality of an organization like Hamas which takes three young people—innocent young people—and God only knows what they have done with them.

I think it is important that we keep our vigil. It is important that we keep them in our thoughts and prayers, and it is important that this country continues to lead the fight against the scourge of terrorism around the world.

Let's pray for their safe return.

CELEBRATING WILD AND WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 151st anniversary of West Virginia statehood. On June 20, 1863, West Virginia became the 35th State. From those early years, our State has grown to become a significant contributor to America's economy.